

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 20, 2001

Present: Billis, Bayless, Dumond, Hornus, Mehigh, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Derek Frosty; Larry LeCureux; Judy Horton; Gene Sanderson; Dick Sanderson; Don Runyon; Karen Johnson; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Janeene Cenkush; Trevor Wagonmaker, Capital Consultants; Bill Graham; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Richard Harsh; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Jan Murray, Capital Consultants; Jeremy Boyd, Treasurer; Dick Waters; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Dawn Johnson; Bill Graham; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the agenda as presented by moving item numbers four through 12 down and adding Item No. 4) Ambulance Discussion, Item No. 4A) Antique Trucks in Park Discussion, Item No. 13) Discussion of Youth Hockey Rink, Item No. 14) Consider Adult Hockey Rink Contract, Item No. 15) Vehicle Allowance for Parks & Recreation Director Discussion, Item No. 16) Consider Library Board Vacancy & Appointment, Item No. 17) Consider Softball Commission Resignation & Appointment, and Item No. 18) Consider Request to Waive Community Center Rental Fee. Councilperson Bayless stated he wanted to go on record and objected to the addition of item number four ambulance discussion. This item may have been received in time for the council packets, but at this time there is no documentation and this item could get rather lengthy. He further stated he did not think anyone was prepared to go into the discussion tonight. As ambulance board president he was not prepared to discuss this item especially after finding out at 3:00 p.m. that this item was going to be placed on the agenda. He also stated he would rather have discussion on this item delayed until the next meeting so additional documentation can be included. Councilperson Ockerman advised the facts he stated earlier stand. It is absolutely essential that this item be addressed, and the discussion will not be lengthy since there is no reason for the discussion to be lengthy. Mayor Billis stated any issue or discussion brought to the city council should be in the form of a motion so it gives everybody a fair way of understanding how discussion goes. He further stated nobody could call a question if there is simply discussion. He has expressed his concern and frustrations to Mr. Sawyer that council is present to do business and not discuss business.

Therefore, he is opening areas where he sees discussion that a motion will be offered by the time council goes into discussion. Councilperson Ockerman stated there is a motion and support on the table.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Mehig, Ockerman, Dumond.

No: Bayless, Hornus.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Runyan stated he has had comments from the people in the audience that they cannot hear the councilpeople at the meeting. He further stated people in the audience, at the last planning commission, also had a difficult time hearing. Runyan moved, Ockerman seconded to have the city manager look into the price of a microphone system and to bring the information back to the next regular meeting. Councilperson Ockerman stated he has been in favor of this but did not know if Councilperson Runyan would get enough support. Councilperson Ockerman further stated nothing was budgeted for a microphone system but this might be something that should be checked into when the city manager brings the information to the city council. Councilperson Bayless stated he did not think this was the place for a motion and did not think a motion was necessary for seeking information. The city council could direct the city manager without the need for a motion, but he wanted clarification if this was part of operating procedure. Mayor Billis stated he agreed, but it is up to the city council to establish this procedure. Councilperson Bayless stated he did not have any objections to the contents of the motion, but now there is a precedent where a motion can be made during roundtable discussion to spend any amount of money for any purpose, and the rest of council would get blindsided because the item was not on the agenda. He further stated if the discussion item was going to be a motion, then it should have been added to the agenda. There should be a procedure policy set so everyone knows what the rules are. Mayor Billis stated council roundtable discussion is a chance for the councilpeople to give a report on the boards and commissions in order to inform the rest of the council and the public. He further stated anybody could make a motion, but he would like guidelines to follow. Councilperson Runyan advised the motion is to have the city manager get prices for a microphone and report back to the next council meeting. He suggested holding a workshop. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was not big on workshops because he spends enough time on different committees, and he does not need another night out for business that can be done during a council meeting. If there is a motion and support, then council should vote on it because this is the way business is conducted. He further stated if council does not like the motion, then they do not have to vote for it.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehigh, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: Dumond.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Mehigh stated he wanted to update council about the ambulance service. Councilperson Bayless objected and as a point of order advised council he is the ambulance board representative for the city council. The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to give reports on the commissions, and he felt it was his place to give the report on the ambulance board and if there is discussion on his report then so be it. Councilperson Bayless stated Councilperson Mehigh is on the ambulance board but he is a member-at-large and not the city's representative. Councilperson Bayless further stated he wanted it on record that this is the second time a person other than himself has given the state of the ambulance board as a commission report who was either a visitor or member-at-large. He also stated he felt this was the position he was appointed to and he objected to the way the situation has occurred. Councilperson Mehigh stated as a council representative he was also a board member and he thought this was his responsibility as a board member and as a citizen to address the fact that the ambulance is about ready to fail. It includes all of us to have an ambulance service and when he sees a big red flag then he thinks it is time to notify people about what is going on and as a board member he has that right. Mayor Billis advised a point of order was called and asked council to vote on whether they felt Councilperson Mehigh should continue with his discussion about the ambulance service. Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to halt Councilperson Mehigh from continuing with his discussion about the ambulance service.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Dumond, Hornus.

No: Mehigh, Runyan, Ockerman.

Yes: Billis.

Motion CARRIED

Councilperson Bayless stated there has been a lot of discussion about the ambulance service and there are some people that have the opinion that the ambulance service is going out of business, a failing organization, broke and has no assets. He further stated he does not know how people came to that conclusion because he has been more than above board giving out information. There was a big meeting on March 16 where all of the governmental units came and there were slides, handouts, and 19 pages of transcribed minutes, which showed the exact financial state of the organization. The financial state has changed slightly in what is owed to Lansing-Mason. He also stated the ambulance board has made major steps to correct the situation. It has taken longer than what he would have liked to start an advanced life support echo service and to address the billing situation, but the ambulance board has taken two big steps in that regard. Councilperson Bayless advised the ambulance service has changed managers, which has also been a big plus. The payables are now being handled in house so there is a better handle on the ambulance service's debt. He further advised there have been public meetings and nothing has been hidden. The ambulance service does owe Lansing-Mason approximately \$100,000, and it is estimated that the property is worth approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000, which is free and clear. He also advised the ambulance service has two ambulances that are paid for free and clear. The ambulance service has a dedicated and hard-working staff that he has ever seen and that is an asset.

Councilperson Bayless reported that the ambulance board was addressing its debt and if money has to be borrowed to settle the debt then the ambulance board will do that. He further reported the ambulance board has asked for additional support from the governments, which would have been a big boost cash flow incentive to purchase an advanced life support echo unit a lot quicker. He also reported the townships and the city told the ambulance board to do something, so changes were made. Councilperson Bayless stated he has asked some of the people who have raised issues if the ambulance board was taking the right steps to correct the issues and the ambulance board was told they were taking the right steps. He further stated the ambulance board has not tried to hide anything and offered to hold another joint government meeting to give the governmental units updates, if that is what people wanted to see. He also stated the ambulance service is going advanced life support and the unit is being inspected on Thursday. The new billing company is coming on line September 1 and they are working with the manager in order to get everything ready to go. Councilperson Bayless advised the previous billing company is working with the ambulance service by trying to close the accounts they have in process. He further advised he felt the ambulance service has a positive future because of the direction the ambulance board is now going in. Councilperson Bayless stated he regretted how long it has taken to get to this point and he cannot micro manage the ambulance service because he has a full-time job. He left certain things to other people to handle and some of the things did not get handled or caught quickly enough. He further stated there are a few more hurdles to get over and he does not see any doom or gloom. He also stated the governmental assets would have helped the ambulance service get over the hurdles and if they decide to withdraw from the agreement and not support the ambulance service then they can do that. It might cause the billing amount to be increased to insurance companies and patients in order to make up the difference. Councilperson Mehig stated he could not agree more with Councilperson Bayless about the dedicated staff, but the fact is the previous billing company brought along their attorney so it is far from being put to bed. Councilperson Mehig further stated the ambulance service has taken state and federal taxes from its employees for the past three years but nothing was sent in to the government. He also stated Councilperson Bayless was correct when he stated the ambulance service was in debt for approximately \$100,000 but major changes need to be made. Councilperson Ockerman stated what bothered him was the truth has to be told to the public as it is and he stated those facts at the last meeting. The facts were facts then and are facts today. He further stated one of the things that bothered him immensely was that he stated that Caledonia Township had given a 30-day notice of withdrawal, which was done and is included in the ambulance service minutes dated July 19 and July 25. He also stated Councilperson Bayless approved those minutes, which means that Councilperson Bayless concurs. Councilperson Ockerman advised when he finished telling the people the way things were Councilperson Bayless stated the following "he was not aware of a 30-day notice from Caledonia Township. Mr. Wazny stated at one of the ambulance board meetings that the township was considering a 30-day notice but he has not seen a notice so he needed to look into that situation." Councilperson Ockerman further advised that Councilperson Bayless also stated that he was the president of the organization so he would know that. Councilperson Ockerman also advised the public needs to know and the public does not need to be deceived in that manner and that is very, very deceptive and he resented that so he was correcting the record right now. Councilperson Ockerman stated the federal taxes have not been paid and he tried to help the operations manager

today by contacting Dave Camp, who would be very helpful in getting the manager to the place she needs to get, and as you might imagine Ms. Johnson was on the phone for hours trying to get through. Councilperson Ockerman further stated the government can lock the building up and that is what is done when federal or state taxes are not paid. These are the facts and there is no deviation from the facts and if anyone says anything else then that person is not telling the truth. Mayor Billis asked Councilperson Bayless what the governmental interest in the ambulance service was. Councilperson Bayless advised he needed to address two points that were brought up. He was mistaken about the 30-day notice verbiage when he sat at the last council meeting because he did not recall hearing that. The verbiage was in the minutes so he does acknowledge that statement was in there. He further advised it has been more than 30 days and the township has not acted on the notice. There was nothing in writing about giving a 30-day notice of termination. Councilperson Bayless stated he believed the by-laws specifically states a 60-day written notice is required to terminate the agreement. It was more of a misunderstanding than anything else and apologized to Councilperson Ockerman, the rest of the city council and to the public for his comment about not catching the 30-day notice. Councilperson Bayless further stated it was inaccurate to say that the ambulance service has not paid any taxes for the last three years. The 941 federal returns have been sent in for the last year because the ambulance board has copies of those, but the board is still accumulating the evidence so he can give a detailed full report about where the ambulance service stands but he cannot do that today because there is additional investigation to do. He also stated it was unfair to bring in half of a story. The whole story will be put out in great detail to all of the governments to cover this issue. Councilperson Bayless reported the state withholding tax forms were not filed and money was only paid when letters of late notices came in which included penalties and interest. The amounts paid do not match up to the notices that were received so there is a lot of work that needs to be done in order to understand how much is really owed to correct the situation. He further reported all of the 940 withholding forms are being redone so the situation can be taken care of. This issue is not difficult to resolve. He also reported the ambulance board is questioning the auditors to find out how they missed this situation. Councilperson Bayless stated he hopes everyone will give him enough time to put the full report together so the whole story can be presented. Again, it is inaccurate for someone to say that the ambulance service has not paid any withholding taxes for three years because this is not true. He further stated per the bylaws the ambulance service is a non-governmental public non-profit corporation, which means no one government or group of governments control the ambulance service. The ambulance board is independent and is made up of a representative from the government because the government took over the member subscription sometime in the past. He also stated the ambulance service was originally a subscriber that paid dues to the ambulance service but the government decided at some point to reorganize the service by agreeing to pay an amount per household so that is how the governments became involved. Now, the governments are paying for the citizens by collecting a tax amount in some form or another. Councilperson Bayless advised because the government supports the ambulance service they have a seat on the board and the rest of the board members are made up of six members-at-large, which are

three-year terms. Councilperson Hornus stated if the ambulance service filed the tax forms but have not paid any money then the ambulance service did not break the law.

Councilperson Bayless advised the Michigan 940 forms were not filed so the ambulance service will have to file them.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Don Runyon asked if he would have to pay one or two bills when the ambulance service gets its own advanced life support unit. Councilperson Bayless advised one bill. The bill would be based on the amount of service rendered to a person. Mr. Runyon asked if two trucks would be sent out to a house. Councilperson Bayless advised no, the advanced life support unit is an echo unit. He further advised the ambulance service does not have advanced life support ambulances. Mr. Runyon stated the ambulance service does not have advanced life support people. Councilperson Bayless advised yes, the ambulance service does. There are paramedics on staff to fill the echo unit. He further advised the echo unit responds to advanced calls only. The paramedic would not be sent out for a sprained ankle. He also advised the paramedic would go in the ambulance to provide advanced life saving techniques. The paramedic would be the ambulance service's paramedic and not a contracted outside paramedic. Mr. Runyon stated he would get two bills. Councilperson Bayless advised only one bill would be sent, which is for the service that was provided. Mr. Runyon stated there would be two services. Councilperson Bayless advised if the paramedic uses advanced life saving techniques a person would be charged for the extra equipment used and so on. If the paramedic is not necessary a lower rate would be charged.

Dawn Johnson advised she is the ambulance board secretary. She further advised on Thursday night Mr. Mehig asked Karen Johnson if the ambulance service owed federal taxes, but it was not stated at the meeting that the ambulance service owes the federal taxes. Nobody knows if the ambulance service owes the taxes or not. Dawn Johnson also advised when Karen Johnson asked Mr. Mehig how he found out he stated it was by hearsay. Dawn Johnson stated there are two different things going on but nobody knows for sure that the taxes are owed, and Mr. Mehig and Mr. Ockerman have stated they found out that the taxes are due. She asked how Mr. Mehig and Mr. Ockerman found out when Karen Johnson, the operations manager, was on hold for 45 minutes or longer with the federal government. Councilperson Mehig stated he asked Karen Johnson if she made contact with the federal government and she advised him no. He further stated he stood corrected. He asked Karen Johnson if the federal taxes have been paid up to date. Ms. Johnson advised she did not know. Councilperson Mehig asked if a tax return was filed for the last three years with the federal government. Ms. Johnson advised yes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Sawyer reviewed his manager's report with council and with those in the audience.

TABLE PUBLIC HEARING ON CHARTER AMENDMENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:
Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to table until further notice the public hearing on charter amendments.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) PRESENTATION: Trevor Wagonmaker from Capital Consultants gave a presentation on the Geographic Information Systems. He explained this presentation was being made to the city council so they would know what the city could have if they chose to go with the system. Jan Murray from Capital Consultants explained how the geographic information system operated and what type of information could be pulled from the system. Councilperson Ockerman asked why Capital Consultants felt this system would be such a valuable tool and if the system would be more helpful to them when they do their job. Mr. Wagonmaker advised Capital Consultants does the city's utility maps right now for water, storm and sewer. If this system was available earlier, it would make the department of public works job easier when trying to find the city's sewer and water locations. Mr. Sawyer advised the city has a problem with its zoning map. The zoning map and original plat maps cannot be read. He further advised the geographic information system would link the maps to the databases. The city has a tremendous database for assessment records, which would link to a map. He also advised once the city has a digitalized map then everything in a database could be linked to it. The utility master map being done right now could be linked right away. Councilperson Ockerman asked how much the hardware and software would cost. Mr. Sawyer advised he asked Capital Consultants to pull a proposal together, which they did, but he did not have it prepared because this was an opportunity to have a quick presentation since there was a short agenda so everyone would get a chance to see the capabilities. Councilperson Runyan asked if the information could be shared with other governmental units. Ms. Murray advised yes.

AMBULANCE DISCUSSION: Mehigh moved, Ockerman seconded to instruct the ambulance board representative to request that the ambulance board call a special meeting of its members to consider revising the Ambulance Board Bylaws to modify the membership to include only appointments from the government sponsors and to put the ambulance board on notice that the City of Corunna intends to cancel its service contract if the bylaw modifications are not successful. Councilperson Ockerman stated without the board format there is no possible way that he, as a councilperson, could support the ambulance service. Councilperson Bayless stated the motion is correct as far as requesting the ambulance board representative to call a special ambulance board meeting. He further stated if the motion is passed he could make the request to call a special meeting, but as the city council's representative, he could not call a special meeting. He also stated as the ambulance board president and according to the bylaws and rules he can call a special meeting, which is two different things. Councilperson Bayless advised the objection he has to the motion is that the verbiage that the City of Corunna intends to cancel its service contract if the bylaw modifications are not successful. He has no control of the outcome of a membership vote, which is all of the residents of the 911-service area. He further advised if the proposed bylaw changes are voted down by the membership, then the City of Corunna is bound to withdraw from the service agreement by this motion because the motion does not say consider withdrawing. If this motion is approved, the city council is saying that if the public does not vote a certain way then the city is out of the contract. He also advised if the City of Corunna is going to withdraw from the service contract by giving a 60-day notice as stated in the agreement, then there should be

a separate vote, which is not tied to this motion. There are two separate issues and that is why he is objecting to the motion. Councilperson Ockerman stated if this motion is voted on and is successfully passed, the city is certainly not going to do anything different other than the current written contract. If the service agreement states 60 days then that is the intention. He asked Councilperson Mehigh if that was his intention. Councilperson Mehigh advised yes.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Runyan, Mehigh.

No: Dumond, Hornus, Bayless.

No: Billis.

Motion DEFEATED

Mayor Billis stated he obviously sees there is a problem, but he does not know where the problem was at or if people were communicating with each other. It seemed to him that reasonable people would attempt to communicate with each other. He further stated if there is a problem with the ambulance board, then he wants to know about it and the public wants to know about it too. However, Councilperson Bayless is the city's representative and he does put full faith into Councilperson Bayless' ability to represent this council. Mayor Billis also stated he could not micro-manage everything and that is why the council is disbursed to the different commissions. Mayor Billis advised he does not want to micro-manage everything nor does he think he has the ability to know everything there is to know about everything on a commission. He does see a problem and does not have all of the information to make a decision. He further advised he did not know why this has come to the point of people making statements for the city that the city will pull out of the agreement and with Caledonia Township saying they are going to pull out. He sees a conflict but instead of seeing the positive he sees the negative. He also advised he has about had it with the negativity with the commissions. If there is a problem, then the reasonable thing to do, as an adult and as a responsible member of the community, is to offer solutions to the problem in a positive manner instead of takeovers. Mayor Billis stated at this point he was voting no on the issue. He further stated he needed to dig into the issue and talk to more people to find out what the problem is in order to get a better understanding of what the problem is. He did not have enough information to make this decision at this time, but he would look into the situation. Mayor Billis suggested to council that they bring back the issue to the table again because he was not going to make a decision based on human stupidity.

ANTIQUE TRUCKS IN PARK DISCUSSION: Dick Waters went over the proposed parking and traffic flow plan. Councilperson Ockerman stated the plan was exceptionally well done and was appreciative that Mr. Waters went to the length he did. Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to approve the parking and traffic plan as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER XEROX COPIER LEASE: Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the Xerox DC432 Digital Copier/Printer Lease with network printer and 2000 sheet high capacity feeder in the amount of \$367.02 per month to include 16,000 copies per month,

service and toner supplies to be paid out of line item 101-265-818.000 and authorize the mayor to sign the lease.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER VENDOR DISBURSEMENT FROM JULY 2, 2001 COUNCIL MEETING:

Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the purchase of the grass rig skid unit from Custom Fiberglass Products in the amount of \$10,740 from line item 101-336-877.000 from the 2000/2001 budget.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO FOURTH OF JULY COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE

DECEMBER 31, 2003: Hornus moved, Bayless seconded to appoint Nancy Nickels to the Corunna Fourth of July Commission for a term beginning upon the taking of the oath and continuing until December 31, 2003 or until a successor is appointed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER OFFICE FURNITURE FOR CLERK'S OFFICE: Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to approve the purchase of office furniture from plan A2 from Open Plan Systems in the amount of \$2,324.09 from line item 101-215-977.000

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Mehig, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON PARK SECURITY: Councilperson Mehig stated there has been so much park vandalism that he would like to see a cost analysis on some kind of security cameras, but he was not sure there was a real good answer. He further stated he would like to see the city manager come up with something involving cameras and to work with the police chief. He also stated it is his understanding that the city has a \$1,000 insurance deductible and most of the time the damage is under that amount so the city has the whole burden. Mehig moved, Hornus seconded to direct the city manager to pursue costs and details for park security cameras. Councilperson Bayless suggested installing motion lights and asked if motion lights would be an effective deterrent. Councilperson Dumond stated he has a motion detector on his garage and on the back of his house, and it is remarkable how quickly the light comes on. Councilperson Hornus stated a motion detector would probably work for a while until the people get used to it. He further stated once the person is on the tape then the city has them. Mr. Sawyer stated he and the police chief would get together to develop a long-term security plan. He further stated a long-term security plan would allow the city to make security improvements every year.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER POLICE CHIEF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT: Councilperson Ockerman stated Mr. Sawyer has spent a great deal of time on what is being proposed. As council knows the city spent \$2,000 on a study, which was well done. Councilperson Ockerman further stated Mr. Sawyer spent about four hours at his house going over the contract, but he would like Mr. Sawyer to give a brief synopsis on what is being proposed. Mr. Sawyer advised he had a chance to speak with most of the councilpeople before the meeting. He further advised he has heard comments that questioned the viability of the study that was done one year ago so he went through the Michigan Municipal League salary catalog. He pulled up the salary for every appointed position in city government in Michigan that has a population of 2,500 to 5,000. He also advised he went to the International City and County Management Association to pull off numbers for the same positions within the city's region and also went to the national level. After evaluating all of the positions by five different methods, he compared the information to the study the city council had done and determined that the Michigan Municipal League study is valid. Mr. Sawyer stated he did some internal comparisons trying to look at apples to apples and what the police sergeant and mechanic are paid compared to the salaried positions. He further stated he factored in such items as longevity, differences in vacation days, and overtime. He also stated his recommendation page tries to do a combination balancing act looking at comparables externally and internally. Councilperson Ockerman stated he has been an advocate of salary caps and has thought the past people were paid too well. For several years people got huge raises and he meant an excessive amount of money. He further stated in some cases people were paid above the average, but he likes Mr. Sawyer's theory. Councilperson Ockerman also stated he likes performance, and he has had people work for him and they were paid a 50 percent split commission. So what Mr. Sawyer is trying to do is add some credence for those salaried people who go over and above the call of duty, which many times is over the 40 hours per week period. These people would get some kind of compensation and credence for that factor. Councilperson Ockerman advised given that the city is going to be in some huge dire straights if the city continues with some of things we had within the plan. He further advised he would like to talk about the city clerk's salary and he has taken a few exceptions to what Mr. Sawyer has done and he would like to state the exceptions and then make a motion. He asked council to go down to the overtime value and Mr. Sawyer put a percentage of 75 percent. Personally, he would like to see the overtime value at 50 percent. Councilperson Ockerman explained in this case, based on 50 percent instead of a \$3,323.48 figure the dollar value would be \$2,215.6, when added into the current salary the recommended salary would be \$39,895, and the city clerk's current salary is \$39,500. He further explained his recommendation would be \$40,000, which is still \$2,000 above the average and that would be his motion to increase the city clerk's salary to \$40,000. In the employment agreement there are some changes and the following changes are what he is offering in his motion: page 2 item E, the employer agrees to pay the full premium for hospitalization medical coverage for the employee and her immediate family. There is not an employer anywhere around that can continue to do that. When an employee retires, the employee might have children who are 30 years old at home and we, as the

city, would have to continue to pay for that family. Pretty soon, the city will not have any employees here because the city is spending all of its money paying for those who have retired. Councilperson Ockerman advised the city does not have the best program around or the Cadillac of the industry, but he thought the city has the Rolls Royce of the industry. He suggested taking out "and her immediate family" from item E. He referred to item six and advised the city has a retirement age of 50 and this just absolutely has to change and suggested going to F55 instead of 50, which is a retirement age of 55. In addition, he would like to strike line 3 benefit RS50 percent 50-percent post retirement for spouse benefits because this is unheard of anywhere else. Councilperson Bayless called for a point of order and stated he thought council was talking about the police chief as the item on the agenda and Councilperson Ockerman was talking about the clerk. Councilperson Ockerman advised the clerk was the first one. Councilperson Bayless advised the police chief is the next item on the agenda and he was getting confused because the item was taken out of order. Councilperson Ockerman apologized and advised he could go to the police chief. He further advised he recommended using the 50 percent overtime value. He also advised it is his belief that the police chief in the city of this size should be on the road half of the time. If the police chief were on the road then the city would have savings beyond what the city currently has here. Councilperson Ockerman stated he has a factor of minus five percent on line three instead of a +3.26 percent and has a minus figure of 2330.89. Instead of the \$45,663.54 recommended salary he came up with \$41,813 and was proposing \$41,800. He further stated he wanted to scratch "and his immediate family" from item E on page two, change item six to F55 and subtract the benefit line, remove "and his immediate family" from line three in the third paragraph, and change the out of pocket expenses for the employee from not greater than \$5.00 to \$10.00. He also stated these changes are much more than fair no matter where a person goes. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to set the police chief salary at \$41,800 and to remove "and his immediate family" from item E on page two, change item six to F55 and subtract the benefit line, remove "and his immediate family" from line three in the third paragraph, and change the out of pocket expenses for the employee from not greater than \$5.00 to \$10.00. Councilperson Mehigh stated he had a problem reducing anybody's salary. He suggested keeping the police chief salary at the current level and item E should include medical coverage for children under 18 and up to age 22 if in college. Mayor Billis asked who made the decision to put these items on the agenda because it is his understanding that the city has a negotiating committee and the negotiating committee negotiates the contract. The council did the superintendent of public works an injustice by not giving him a chance to state what he wanted in his contract. Mayor Billis asked Mr. Sawyer if he had evaluated his employees. Mr. Sawyer advised no, he has only been with the city three months. He further advised there are no evaluations on file by the previous manager before she left. He also advised he has reviewed the contracts with the employees and they did not agree with his recommendations. Mayor Billis stated he wanted an objective report on the employee's performance because he might not want to give them a raise based on their performance. Councilperson Ockerman stated there has been pressure by himself to get the contracts on the agenda. The city council has asked to have the contracts brought to the city council no later than 30 days from the expiration date and it has been over 30 days so this councilperson has pressured Mr. Sawyer to get them to the floor. Mayor Billis stated the problem is the city is currently in labor negotiations and the city is trying to be fair in every respect. He further stated if the city council want to pick new labor committee

members then fine. He also stated the employees, council and labor committee or whoever is involved should make a decision on what the employees should be paid not just based on what the other communities are doing but what the employees are doing or not doing for this community too. Councilperson Dumond stated the city manager has been here less than 90 days, and he has done one hell of a lot of work for the city. He suggested waiving the 30-day in advance this time. Councilperson Ockerman stated Mr. Sawyer is being as fair as anybody possibly could be. Mr. Sawyer stated he spent a lot of time at the manager's conference talking to different managers about how they do their evaluations and contracts and there are many different methods. There are some cities that rely on the city manager's recommendation, some cities hold a workshop, and some cities have a committee like the labor committee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman.

No: Bayless, Mehig, Dumond, Hornus.

Motion DEFEATED

Ockerman moved, Mehig seconded to keep the police chief's wage at \$43,000; remove "and his immediate family" from item E; change the retirement age to F55 in item six; remove "and his immediate family" from the third paragraph; and change the prescription amount from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Councilperson Dumond asked if the benefits were pretty much patterned after the two union contracts the city has. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Long to repeat the motion. Ms. Long advised to keep the wage at \$43,000, remove "and his immediate family" from item E. Mr. Sawyer stated add "18 to 22", which is his understanding is the definition of immediate family. Councilperson Ockerman stated he wanted the motion to be 18 and 22. Ms. Long stated so his spouse would have no insurance but the children do and asked if that was what she was reading. Councilperson Ockerman stated that was not his intention, and he did not think that was Councilperson Mehig's intention. Councilperson Ockerman further stated he had a problem with "and his immediate family". Councilperson Runyan suggested putting until age 18 or 22 if in college after immediate family. Councilperson Ockerman stated that would be fine. Ms. Long advised that was the way the wording already was. Councilperson Hornus stated the wording is right there in the policy. Councilperson Ockerman stated what it would hurt to print it. Ms. Long advised the wording could be put in there. Mayor Billis asked Ms. Long to repeat the motion. Ms. Long advised item E after "and his immediate family" for children until 18 or 22 if in college, item six benefit F50 becomes F55, and remove "and his immediate family" from the next paragraph. Councilperson Ockerman stated that statement is out because that is retirees and that is not common. He further stated it would be \$10.00 instead of \$5.00 for prescriptions. Ms. Long asked if the changes were Councilperson Ockerman's only changes. Councilperson Ockerman advised yes. Ms. Long asked if the changes would affect the retirees the city already has because the spouses are already covered. Councilperson Ockerman advised no you cannot change what has already been done. Mayor Billis stated that was the motion and he hoped the motion was understood. He asked if there was any discussion. Councilperson Hornus stated he agreed with the mayor about the labor committee. The city council is negotiating with the people tonight without getting any input from them and that is what the labor committee is for to get with the people and negotiate with them. Councilperson Ockerman stated he objected because Councilperson Hornus' argument really is not towards the motion. Mayor Billis

stated the wording “and his immediate family” was struck out and asked Chief Hetfield if the wording was in his previous contract. Chief Hetfield advised yes. Mayor Billis stated so this is a benefit that has been given. Chief Hetfield advised it was the same as the union contracts because it was written with the same language. Mayor Billis stated this was a tough one. He was in agreement to a certain degree that “and his immediate family” is excessive and was excessive when it was negotiated before, but he did not know if he was ready to go back and second guess the previous councils. He further stated the people have already got these benefits and they have planned their lives around them, but he did not know if he could go back and change them. Councilperson Bayless stated he has sat and listened to all of the comments and decided he needed to put his two cents in. The city paid for the study when it was done and Mr. Sawyer has done a lot of work to prove its validity. Councilperson Bayless further stated in this case he believed the city was under average a little bit and asked Mr. Sawyer if this was correct. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Bayless asked Mr. Sawyer if his recommendation was still under the median average for other cities. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Bayless advised back when the study was done he made the point that if the city was going to do the study then the city should follow it, and he still thinks this was a valid point. The salaries need to reflect the market out there so that whether the city is trying to retain an employee the city has, which is always a good idea if the employee is a valued employee instead of having to go to the expense of replacing the employee if the employee decides to leave because they got a better offer somewhere else since the city is not meeting at least the median wage the person could get somewhere else. He further advised his two cents is that he agreed with Mr. Sawyer’s recommendations based on the work that Mr. Sawyer has put into the issue. Councilperson Bayless also advised he could not support the motion as it stands.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Mehigh.

No: Bayless, Hornus, Dumond.

No: Billis.

Motion DEFEATED

Councilperson Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer if the mayor is allowed to vote on a money issue. Mr. Sawyer advised it was his interpretation as well as the city attorney’s interpretation that yes the mayor can vote on money issues but not on appropriation issues because expenditures and appropriations are two different things. Councilperson Bayless stated since the city council spent a lot of time on this issue, and it was not going anywhere, he thought the issue should be referred back to the labor committee since there seems to be input that is actually a recommendation. He asked to have the labor committee do something quickly within the next couple of weeks and bring something back to the next meeting. He further stated there were several items on the agenda to consider and he thought a two-week delay on these three items would not hurt the city council too badly. Bayless moved, Hornus seconded to table all three of these items until the next agenda. Councilperson Dumond stated one reason he likes Mr. Sawyer’s procedure is it takes out personality conflicts if there were any. Councilperson Mehigh stated he was a little disappointed that the previous city manager did not have any evaluations done. Employee performance evaluations are tied into the wage scale. He further stated it was hard to be objective without that knowledge. Councilperson Runyan stated if the contracts go through the negotiating committee in order to put a package

together he would like to see the information presented at a workshop instead of bringing it right back to the city council. Councilperson Dumond stated that could be done. Councilperson Bayless stated if the committee wants to have a workshop then they could do that. He asked who the current labor committee members were. Mayor Billis advised himself, Councilperson Dumond, Councilperson Mehigh and Mr. Sawyer. Councilperson Mehigh stated he wanted to decline sitting in on the negotiations. Councilperson Dumond stated Councilperson Mehigh has been sitting in on the union negotiations. Councilperson Mehigh stated he guessed he could but he was looking at the bottom timeline and advised he would sit in on the negotiations if time permits. Councilperson Ockerman stated this is exactly why Mr. Sawyer has put in this kind of labor and he could not have done a better job. Councilperson Ockerman further stated Mr. Sawyer substantiated the \$2,000, which in his opinion was wasted before. Councilperson Ockerman also stated Mr. Sawyer has confirmed all of this, and the city council is just dallying because the city council has the information in front of them. Councilperson Ockerman advised the city council will take a committee of three who will come up with whatever they got, who have no power, and bring back a recommendation, but the city council will be right back doing this again. The city council has got to take care of the city's business since it is before council. He further advised the information has been thought through very thoroughly, and he has not seen anything done in a better fashion. Mr. Sawyer is trying to pay for performance and the logic is there. Councilperson Ockerman stated he has told council about the problems that are involved in compensation packages, and the packages are excessive. If the city council does not wake up, the city might not have the money to have anybody here in the future. He further stated he felt the council was just wasting time.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehigh, Dumond, Bayless, Runyan.

No: Ockerman.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF YOUTH HOCKEY RINK: Councilperson Ockerman asked Ms. Washburn to speak her mind. Ms. Washburn advised she would be signing the contract with Mr. Loynes. Councilperson Mehigh asked if any more open skating would be taken away. Ms. Washburn advised no, the times that are being used are almost overlapping. The open skating will remain the same, but there will be some Saturday and Sunday night league skating.

CONSIDER ADULT HOCKEY RINK CONTRACT: Ms. Washburn advised there seems to be a little bit of conflict as far as the time frame, but the adult league has assured her that they will wait until the youth league is done. Councilperson Ockerman asked Ms. Washburn

what she was asking council to do. Ms. Washburn advised she was asking council to approve the adult hockey contract as presented. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the adult hockey contract as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER VEHICLE ALLOWANCE FOR PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR:

Councilperson Ockerman stated it has been brought to his attention that Ms. Washburn is using her car an exorbitant amount of time, and she was not asking for much. She was asking to be paid for anything past a 20-mile radius. He further stated Ms. Washburn is using her car but is not being reimbursed for it. He also stated he thought Ms. Washburn has a valid point, but to ask her to keep mileage or whatever in that fashion is very time consuming, which would waste her time. Ockerman moved, Mehigh seconded to give the parks and recreation director \$50.00 per month for vehicle expenses. Councilperson Dumond asked the city manager if the city has a mileage reimbursement procedure. Councilperson Ockerman stated he was just trying to make it so Ms. Washburn does not have to keep a mileage log. It is cumbersome, and he thought Ms. Washburn would well exceed the \$50.00 so that is why he has suggested a flat rate. He further stated he wanted to keep her on the job instead of wasting time keeping track of mileage or whatever else it might be. Councilperson Dumond stated it looked like the city council was setting a precedent. Councilperson Ockerman stated the vehicle allowance would only apply to this person and anybody else that might go to a convention would still keep track of the mileage. The phrase setting a precedent comes up all of the time so set a precedent because he was trying to make it easy and simple. He further stated this was not Ms. Washburn's idea to do it this way, it was his. Mayor Billis advised Ms. Washburn that she was going over and above her call of duty, and she is spending a lot of time in the park and is utilizing her own vehicle. He further advised the council did not expect the amount of time she dedicates to that position. He also advised Ms. Washburn is doing an excellent job. Councilperson Bayless stated he agreed with everything that was said, but the problem he has is if one person is going to be given a raise then why not the assessor a raise since she uses her own car to take pictures of all of the property. He further stated there is a system in place to do the reimbursement that she has requested, but now the city council is saying they are going to give one person a raise for car usage, but the same expense could be justified for a lot of other individuals. He also stated if the council wants to give a person a raise then give the person a raise, but do not say a car reimbursement will be given to one individual and not do it to everybody in that same situation. Councilperson Ockerman stated the city manager is already getting a car reimbursement and if council does not want to do it then do not give Ms. Washburn the money because this is nitpicking. Mayor Billis suggested to Ms. Washburn that she use Mr. Sawyer's vehicle.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Mehigh, Runyan, Billis.

No: Dumond, Hornus, Bayless.

Yes: Billis.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY AND APPOINTMENT: Councilperson

Ockerman asked Mr. Sawyer to explain. Mr. Sawyer advised he was informed Thursday or Friday that Millie Taute has turned in her resignation to the library board. He further advised he has had multiple councilpeople state that they would like to see a council representative on the library board. The city council has the right to have one councilperson on that board, but it is the mayor's recommendation. He also advised at this time this item is an informational item unless the mayor chooses to take action. Councilperson Ockerman stated he asked Mr. Sawyer to check to see if it was a council

appointment or a mayoral appointment. Councilperson Ockerman further stated given that information he would like to see council pass on this item until the mayor had time to think about it.

CONSIDER SOFTBALL COMMISSION RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT:

Councilperson Ockerman stated council has the resignation from Councilperson Mehigh and asked Mr. Sawyer if this item was a mayoral or council appointment. Mr. Sawyer advised a council appointment. Councilperson Hornus advised he would be glad to serve on the softball committee because he has in the past and would like to serve on it again. Ockerman moved, Runyan seconded to appoint Cal Hornus to the Corunna Softball Commission as the council representative.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER REQUEST TO WAIVE COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL FEE: Councilperson

Runyan asked if there was some information on the request. Ms. Washburn advised Asa Elkins passed away last evening and since the family lived in Arizona they do not have any particular connections. She further advised Dan Kribs called her and asked if the family could use the lower level of the community center for a funeral dinner. She also advised Mr. Elkins served on the city council for many, many years off and on. He had a love for the city that she did not think could match hers but it was pretty darn close. Ms. Washburn stated there was not anything done in the park that he did not support wholeheartedly. She further stated he was a marshal in one of the Fourth of July parades and also served in the Corunna Rotary. She encouraged the city council to allow the family to use the facility. Dumond moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the request to waive the rental fee on the community center for the purpose of the Elkins' family using the facility for a funeral dinner and memorial for Asa Elkins. Councilperson Ockerman stated he had no problem with the request, but he can see problems with it. He can see a lot of people coming to the city council and requesting the same thing. He further stated he for one does not ask for any slack or ask the city to do anything for him out of the ordinary, and he would be the last one to ask for anything. The city council needs to think about the repercussions. Mayor Billis asked who came to the city with this request. Ms. Washburn advised Dan Kribs called her for the family. Mr. Sawyer stated he felt most members of the community would gladly waive the fee due to the death of a councilman. Councilperson Runyan stated he did not think there would be any citizen out there that would ever come back with any repercussions if the city council waived the rental fee.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Mehigh, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Bill Graham stated he was a member of the parks and recreation commission and he has not been involved with the council discussions on the youth hockey contract, but it has been quite a time consuming process as Mr. Sawyer and the mayor knows to come up with a contract that the parks and recreation commission

thought was fair before forwarding it to the city. Mr. Graham further stated the board did not think that charging any significant amount of money in the short term was fair to the youth hockey league in exchange for the investment in the park that the group came up with. The parks and recreation board was a little surprised that its recommendation of a contract calling for a very nominal fee was not accepted by the council. He also stated Mr. Loynes' as well as the commission would like to know if the monies the city gets from the youth hockey, which might be what the council intends to do anyway, can somehow be channeled back into the hockey area of the park instead of having the money go into the general fund. Mr. Graham advised this issue would be addressed at the next meeting on Wednesday and a recommendation would be brought back to the city council. He further advised the commission as a group did not feel that \$1,000 was a fair amount to charge the youth hockey when anybody else can come in and would be charged \$5.00 a person when they have no monetary input to the facility like the youth hockey group did.

Don Runyon asked if hockey sticks would be banned during open skating. Ms. Washburn advised each park and recreation commission member would be bringing a recommendation on what the rules and regulations for the park including the hockey rink should be. She further advised her recommendation to the parks and recreation commission would be to have a block of time where there are no hockey sticks.

Gene Sanderson asked if the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) presentation would be brought back to the city council again so the people would have a chance to voice their opinions. Mayor Billis advised certainly. Mr. Sanderson stated he had a few questions on the system, but he would save them until the issue is brought back to council since it is late. He further stated all it was to him was a game for someone to sit in front of instead of playing solitaire.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to leave the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of land acquisition.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Mehig, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 10:00 p.m.

Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to leave the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Mehig, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 10:15 p.m.

ADJOURN: Hornus moved to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 10:15 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK